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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 94% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 66,060 | Nifty 19,564 | Gold 60,000 | Silver 77,100 | Dollar 82.16 | Euro 92.29 | GBP 107.63

Child sitting outside locked gate of govt primary school in Ashok Nagar catches passerby's eye; when we visited school, state of building was another sorry sight

OPEN & SHUT CASE

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

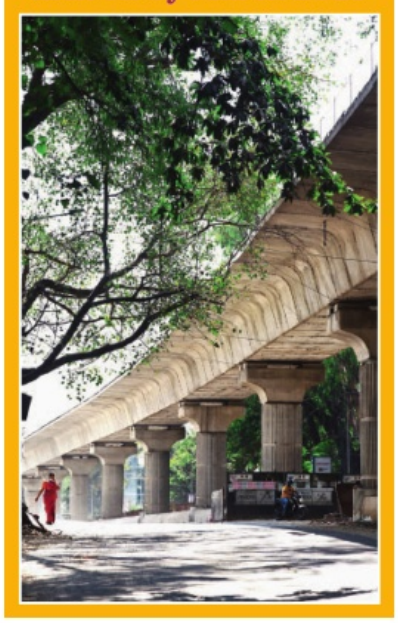
Government Tamil Higher Primary School on Commissariat Road at Ashok Nagar is once again hitting the headlines for wrong reasons. It was in the news for having no electricity for seven years due to reasons best known to the teachers and education department officials. Now, the school is in the news again after a passer-by noticed a girl child sitting in front of the locked gate of the school on Thursday morning. The child was compelled to come to school a little early and there was no space inside for her to sit inside.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

CITY / PAGE 8

THINK PINK

80% tunneling for pink line of Metro done, aim to kick off by March 2025



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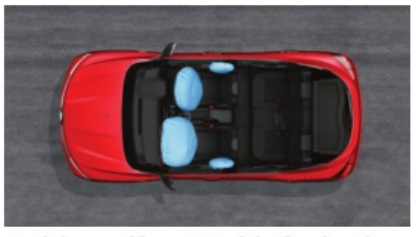
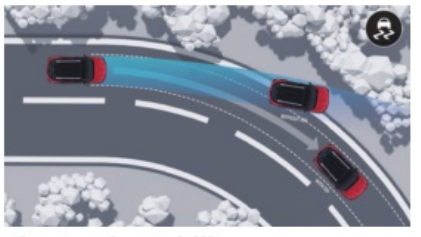


4 airbags (front & side for both driver & passenger)



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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Expo meet

Here's a chance for you to explore a variety of handlooms, jewellery, gems, bed rugs, Kalamkari sarees, fabrics, earrings, kurtas, and more at the Rajasthan Handloom and Handicraft Expo. The exhibition aims to bring together rural artisans from the eastern part of India through the use of traditional handloom skills to create contemporary lifestyle products. **Where: Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana , RBI Layout, CA03, Kothnur Main Road, JP Nagar 7th Phase**

02 Theatre time

The annual Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2023 is all set to happen this July in the city. The artists will be performing five exciting age-specific plays made especially for children. Sows are Just Hiss, Hanv Ghara Asa, The Land of Mea Lilo, The Crying Village, and Bags of Gags.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: July 19-23; 7:30 pm

03 Toy room

Digital artist Amrit Pal Singh is presenting an exhibition showcasing a physical toy room at one of the most happening places in the city. The toy room features a collection of seven new Toy Faces. These faces are known to celebrate the whimsy of childhood that would resonate with adults as well and are tributes to legends like MF Husain, Dali, Yayoi Kusama, and more. **Where: Church Street Social**
When: until July 23

It's art for everyone

Experts highlight crucial role of women in informal sector in creative process; stress on participatory art

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From a drab, dull building to an illuminated piece of artwork, the Marathalli Slum Board Quarters transformed into a work of art. The Alli Serona project was initiated to portray the voices of the workers in the informal sector. The project consisted of reinventing the walls of the apartments with creative paintings, apart from various workshops for the women in the informal sector.

A short film on the same topic was screened at the Alliance Francaise in the city on Thursday. In the panel discussion, all the women involved in the project spoke about their experiences.

Bindu Chandana, founder of Ficus Ideas, said, "The work in participatory spaces sounds new but is not actually new. It's been around for a long time in an organic, informal way. We have given it shape in the last couple of decades in India.

The main aspect is how to get people to share their wisdom through art. The intent is how you garner the wisdom of the people one works with and use that in order to create design. A lot of designers today use that to immerse themselves in the spaces and look at what people are saying. It is a unique way of engaging with the community, especially women and children."

Transgender radio jockey Shanthi Sonu talked about her on-the-ground experience during the project. "It has been nine years as part of this project, travelling across the country to paint in public places and give more awareness to the community. The place where we were vulnerable, we are occupying it now."

Many added that the beauty of participatory art is that it is a democratic process of creation.

Tanisha Arora, senior creative strategist at Purpose, said, "The audience, here the informal sector women, becomes a crucial contributor in the creative process. Either through giving their inputs and insights or through actions, solutions, or ideas, they have an active role in the creation process. The quote that echoes for me is 'Nothing without us for us'. Anything that we create should be with the person you are creating."

She added that participatory art creates a sense of empathy, belongingness, and solidarity among the participants. "That is the power of participatory art, which we are using in social space," she said.

Moreover, Indu Anthony, founder of Namma Katte, said that personally, as an artist, she has been drawn to her surroundings. "The places I'm entering and the cultural setup have played a role. That is the stem of participatory art. Understanding the larger population around you, your rights as a citizen, the rights of citizenship of the people around you, and the cultural aspects of these spaces. It's about figuring out what the things are that affect you and the people around you and collectively seeing how we can start conversations around them. Change happens over a long period of time. Starting a conversation is essential."

The Alli Serona project was initiated to portray the voices of the workers in the informal sector

> **"It has been nine years as part of this project. The place where we were vulnerable, we are occupying it now**
> – Shanti Sonu

Netra Ajjampur, co-founder and principal architect at Studio Sorted, said, "More than a design practitioner and architect, it tends to become a process of designing for a client and the stakeholder.

But in participatory design, one designs with the people you are designing for. That gives you the space not to do a context study but to design and aim the context directly. This is the need of the hour. Employing such practices can be impactful and show designs in a quick way, which can be impactful in the long run."

Urgent matter at hand: Unethical breeding

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In 2017, Chitra Amzarewale-Sapre, a resident of Whitefield, got a three-month-old labrador retriever to help her recover from a heart ailment. An aerospace engineer by profession, AmzarewaleSapre had recently suffered a heart attack and was advised to get a dog companion for a speedy recovery.

However, after a couple of months of getting Candy, AmzarewaleSapre discovered that her furry friend is suffering from hip dysplasia, a congenital health issue due to unethical dog breeding practices.

"Candy was five months old when she was diagnosed with hip dysplasia in both hips. While Candy has a good temperament and has never expressed her pain, we could not let her suffer. Our options were worlds apart: either we get her operated on and ensure a pain-free life, or we go for a much less expensive choice of managing her pain and letting her pass away when she couldn't bear it anymore," recounted AmzarewaleSapre.

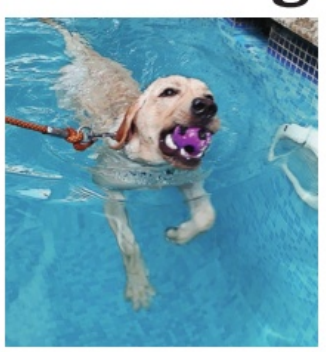
While Candy underwent surgery shortly after the episode and is leading a healthy life, scores of pet parents in the city are faced with this choice regularly. Veterinarians say there has been an alarming rise in the number of dogs with hereditary health issues after covid. Heart diseases, blindness and deafness, hip and elbow dysplasia, idiopathic epilepsy, and misalignment of the jaws are only some of the chronic health issues.

Doctors say these fatal ailments are due to the unethical breeding of dogs to meet the surge in demand for breed dogs or dogs of a pure bloodline.

"We are getting too many cases of dogs suffering from congenital issues post-pandemic. For instance, at least seven out of every ten Labrador retrieves out they have hip dysplasia. As a result, dogs as young as five or six months old are being put on every kind of supplement. While these cases were present earlier as well, the boom in the pet market post-covid has opened kind of a Pandora's box for the animals," said Dr Samrudh MC, a veterinarian at Paw Mates Pet Care hospital.

Experts say these issues arise primarily because breeders do not screen animals before breeding them.

"We are flooded with cases of hip and elbow dysplasia, abnormal development of the lower or upper jaws, cardiac issues, idiopathic epilepsy, and renal dysplasia, to mention the most common ones. These issues are mostly seen in breeds like the Labrador, St Bernard, Cocker Spaniel, Boxer, Shih Tzu, and Siberian Husky. These ailments are genetic and make their lives miserable. An animal should undergo a thorough medical check-up before he or she is selected as a littermate. In case any health issues are diagnosed, the dog should not be used for breeding," said Dr Pawan Kumar, founder and veterinarian at Cessna Lifeline Veterinary Hospital, Domlur.



Animal healthcare experts added that genetic ailments appear due to the practice of inbreeding also referred to as unethical breeding.

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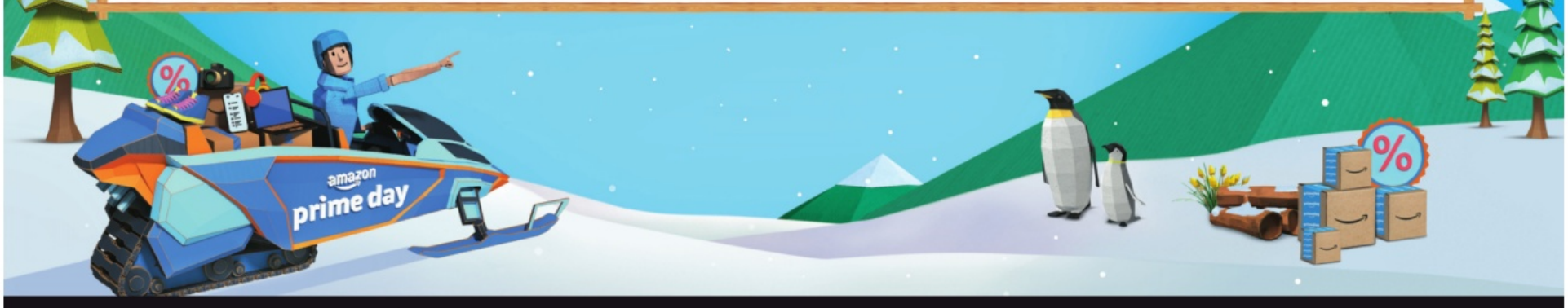

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REARVIEW MIRROR

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Unchartered territory

How long did it take for a branch of dinosaurs to evolve into their feathered cousins? More time than the complete evolutionary history of homo sapiens perhaps. Now certain phenomena manifesting at the moment are throwing the proverbial spanner in the works of the evolutionary wheel. One is the climate emergency and the other no doubt is errant tech. That tech is exacerbating the social inequities alongside furthering the impact of the climate fallout is something absurdly unfortunate for the poor billions. New tech billionaires on the scene are indulging in petty cockfights rather than empathising with the aforesaid billions - what a travesty.

On July 14, the Yamuna's waters inundated the national capital like never seen before in the recent past. The waters reached national installations of repute such as the Supreme Court, Raj Ghat and the Red Fort - in fact it turned out to be a spectacle never witnessed before in the region.

The waters of the river Yamuna otherwise remain a trickle during summer months, except during the monsoon swell, as stray cattle roam and Delhi's poor live in makeshift shanties on its banks. Nevertheless the river is also polluted beyond measure as it traverses the great city. Now that the waters have reached the gates of the Supreme Court and national monuments of repute - even the offices of some national dailies at ITO too - the least the collective and its governmental representatives can do is to take note and acknowledge the gravity of the situation - it should shock us out of our slumber to the reality of the climate fallout and the fact that we do not have a concrete plan or policy yet in the subcontinent to face up to the crises.

A few days ago Himachal Pradesh witnessed torrential downpour that battered the state's mountainous geography. The rivers that make up the Punjab breached banks and caused widespread devastation in the hill state, especially the Beas that flows down from the Rohtang Pass through the Kullu Valley traversing the picturesque towns of Manali and Buntar at the foothills.

The United Nations meanwhile announced that the world has entered uncharted territory indeed, especially taking into account the unprecedented fallout of extreme weather events pummelling the world - in glaciers, rivers, valleys, flood plains, mountains, cities, villages, deserts, oceans, lakes and everywhere.

The declaration came as the northern hemisphere recorded the hottest July ever recorded and the monsoon was unravelling in the subcontinent: monsoon covered India in a very short period.

Not only is it critical to take note of the climate fallout and draw policy on a war footing but it is time the collective started thinking whether the emergency is triggering physiological or emotional transformation in human beings and perhaps in the larger collective of living entities. Provided such a dramatic shift has not occurred in such a small window of time - in fact minuscule one - in the recent past demands probing.

For instance, reports said violence against women is rising in the global south due to climate change: at the outset it may sound absurd and rather hard to tolerate but the impact of the radical change in the planet's weather systems is so profound. The terrible dynamics of the refugee crisis and the certain impact on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable on the frontlines of the climate crisis do trigger violence in the communities involved, their struggle for survival in a world being depleted of resources as we speak. This was hinted at in reports that said the majority of the humans in the world would be thrown out of the climate niche as though it were some dystopian novel reminiscent of some sci fi works.

In another topical example, the refugee ship tragedy off the Greek coast that claimed the lives of over 300 Pakistanis was driven by the climate fallout, a report said. Now Pakistan is also caught up in the uncertainty of a political turmoil that may make it quite hard to even acknowledge the enormity of the humanitarian crisis at hand, the unprecedented deluge of last year notwithstanding. The most recent reports have sounded alarm about the fragility of the Himalayan glaciers in the unravelling weather systems - especially the geographic stability of that country cradled by the Hindu Kush mountains is on the line.

That we are increasingly dependent on machines at a time when human ingenuity is critical In the global south to cushion the lives of the most impoverished souls is appalling but a sour fact. We are living at a time when erratic weather is the norm rather: one day we have rain reminiscent of cloudbursts and the next day plentiful sunshine. Should we depend on chatbots for advice at this crucial hour: well, the makers of ChatGPT just signed a deal with Associated Press on news stories if you like. Sigh.

After 4 years, waste plant creaks into action

Seegehalli plant is likely to process waste generated in whole of RR Nagar zone

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File photo of Seegehalli waste processing plant

The waste processing plant at Seegehalli reopened after a gap of four years and began receiving waste from Friday. The reopening of the waste processing plant is expected to process the entire waste generated in Raja Rajeshwari Nagar Zone thus providing much-needed relief for the residents from garbage menace.

The waste processing plant at Seegehalli was inaugurated by BBMP RR Nagar Zone Commissioner Reddy Shankar Babu, accompanied by BBMP engineers. The plant has a processing capacity of 120 tonnes of waste.

Recently Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar made a surprise visit to three waste processing plants situated at Seegehalli, Kannahalli, and Doddabidarakallu and directed the BBMP Solid Waste Management engineers to take measures for reopening the waste processing plant at Seegehalli.

"We re-opened the plant at Seegehalli as per the National Green Tribunal (NGT) direction. We have taken measures to avoid bad odours emanating from the waste processing plant. We are planning to grow lemon grass and other plants to ensure fragrance around the waste processing plant," said BBMP RR Nagar Zone Commissioner Reddy Shankar Babu.

The waste processing plant was constructed on a seven-acre land at an estimated cost of Rs 35 crore. The plant began in 2016 and it was shut in 2019 due to the protest by students of a nearby college. The waste processing plant was established to process both wet and mixed waste. The output after processing in this plant is ready-to-use organic compost which is called 'black gold' and leachate which acts as a tonic for crops.

BBMP Solid Waste Management assistant executive engineer Poornima told BM the compost generated at the waste processing plant would be supplied to farmers free of cost. "Farmers, who want to avail compost from the waste processing plant, should have registered with Raitha Samparka Kendra. The Raitha Samparka Kendra will send the requisition of compost to the KCDC and the KCDC will forward it to the waste processing plant where the compost is available," said Poornima.

The waste processing plant has a tank to store leachate generated from mixed and wet waste. "We have sent the leachate generated at other waste processing plants for testing by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR). The lab test by IIHR proved that leachate is good for plants and crops. Farmers have to dilute the leachate with water and use it for plants. We will give compost and leachate to farmers only after testing them in a lab," said BBMP RR Nagar Zone. Commissioner, adding to that said, the waste processing plant will avoid usage of landfill sites thus saving most valuable land and causing less damage to the environment.

> **We have taken measures to prevent the waste processing plant from raising a stink**
>
> –Shankar Babu Reddy, BBMP

The assistant executive engineer said the BBMP would save Rs 5 lakh per month on the transportation of waste. "Till yesterday we used to send waste to other waste processing plants as the Seegehalli waste processing plant was closed. The BBMP has to pay Rs 1 lakh extra for each garbage compactor per month for carrying waste to other waste processing plants. Five garbage compactors need to carry waste from RR Nagar Zone. By reopening the waste processing plant at Seegehalli, we can save Rs 5 lakh per month," said the BBMP assistant executive engineer.

Root cause of issue: Heritage peepal tree falls

A heritage peepal tree claimed to be over 400 years old, at the junction of Cunningham and Millers Road was uprooted on Friday evening. According to the locals, the tree roots had sustained damage due to construction activities of High Grounds Police Station. An underground car parking facility is being constructed as part of the new police station building.

This could have caused the tree to fall, they said. This comes close at the heels of severalt ree falls in the city after rain. —BMB

Scammed under guise of reality TV

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With an increasing number of children participating in reality shows, a shocking case has come to light in the city where an accused individual has swindled many parents by falsely promising that their children would become television stars. DCP (Central) R Srinivas Gowda stated, "The accused deceived parents by claiming to take money to promote their kids in a reality show. She utilised the name of a well-known personality from the Kannada television industry. We have registered a complaint and are currently investigating the matter."

An auto driver shared his experience, saying, "My wife received a message on Instagram asking us to pay Rs 10,000 so that our daughter could act in a Kannada movie. They requested a photoshoot to be conducted at either JP Nagar or Yelahanka. When I expressed my inability to pay such a large sum, they agreed to lower the amount to Rs 5,000. I paid the money, but after that, the person who contacted me disappeared."

CRIME FILES

Another victim revealed, "I had enrolled my son for a baby contest show, in which he emerged as the winner. Subsequently, the accused presented me with a business proposal, promising returns on investment. I ended up paying Rs 4.25 lakh, only to later realise that I had lost my money."

Arpita, another victim, shared her ordeal, saying, "Since I didn't have any money, I had to pawn my gold to make the payment. The accused had made promises of helping my son secure acting opportunities in the television industry. I paid Rs 10,000, while my brother paid Rs 20,000, and my sister paid Rs 35,000."

3 arrested for road rage

Three bike riders have finally been arrested by City Police in connection with a road rage case. The incident involved the attack on a young car driver and the damaging of his vehicle after he honked to clear an obstruction on the road. DCP (Whitefield) S Girish confirmed the arrests on Thursday and assured that strict action would be taken. The police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) based on the victim's complaint.

The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Varthur Police Station on Thursday afternoon. The Citizens Movement, an organisation in East Bengaluru, urged the Director General of Police (DGP) to take action. They pointed out that such incidents, where goons on bikes target IT professionals in broad daylight, reflect a state of lawlessness.

178 dengue cases spark concern

Health department raises awareness as cases surge and urges swift response

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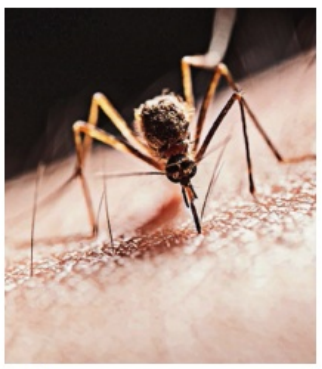


With intermittent rainfall and the onset of the monsoon season, the city is witnessing an increase in dengue cases. In just 11 days, the city has recorded 178 dengue cases. Officials are urging people to maintain clean surroundings as mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. According to BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) officials, a total of 3,565 individuals have shown symptoms of dengue, and blood samples from 1,009 people have been sent for examination within BBMP limits.

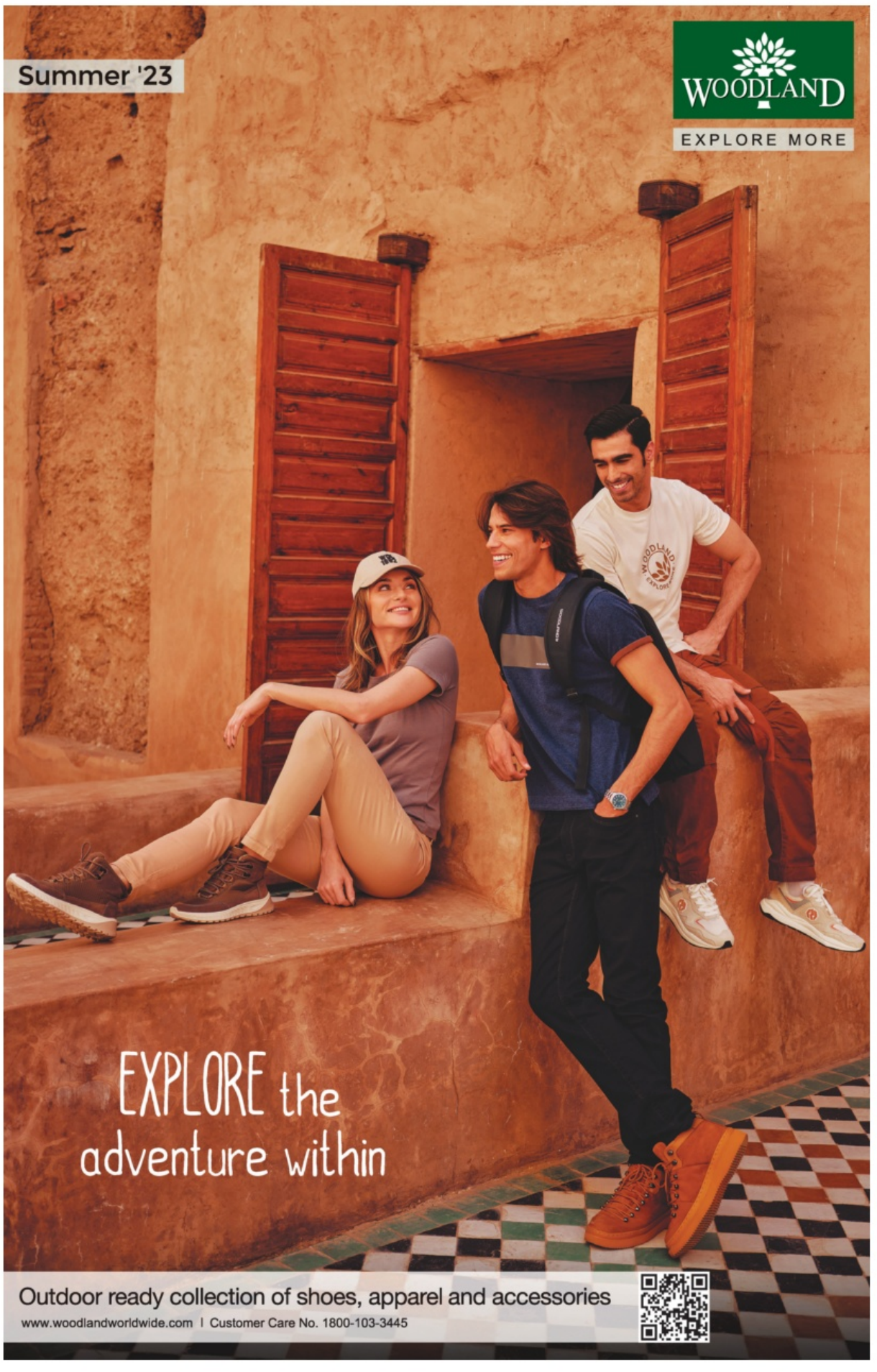
As of now, more than 900 cases of dengue have been confirmed in Karnataka, with Bengaluru alone reporting 919 cases. Fortunately, there have been no reports of dengue-related casualties. In 2022, BBMP recorded 585 dengue cases.

The data clearly indicates the fluctuation in dengue cases over the years in Karnataka. In 2017, the state reported 17,844 dengue infections along with 10 deaths. In 2018, there were 4,848 dengue cases and four deaths. In 2019, the numbers rose to 18,183 cases and 17 deaths. In 2020, there were 3,823 cases and five deaths. In 2021, 7,393 cases and seven deaths were reported, while in 2022, there were 1,335 cases with nine deaths. The pattern suggests a rise in dengue cases every alternate year. Doctors warn that compared to the previous year, there may be a spike in cases this year.

Dengue is a viral disease transmitted through the infective bites of Aedes species of mosquitoes. It is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, severe headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, nausea, vomiting, and rash. Bleeding and shock are considered danger signs. There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for dengue, and symptomatic treatment is recommended. If not treated promptly, dengue can be fatal. Blood tests should be conducted immediately when dengue symptoms arise. Testing and treatment for dengue are available free of cost in government facilities.

> **"It is crucial to prevent water storage in solid waste materials during the monsoon season to prevent Aedes mosquito breeding**
>
> –Health department official

A health department official stated, "Prevention and control of vector-borne diseases in the state are being carried out according to the guidelines of the centre as dengue prevention and control measures include active involvement from other sectors and the community. Therefore, various awareness activities are being implemented to create widespread awareness among the community. It is crucial to prevent water storage in solid waste materials during the monsoon season to prevent Aedes mosquito breeding. Water storage containers in and around houses should be emptied and cleaned on a weekly basis, and all containers should always be kept covered with a proper lid."



City set to witness upswing in connectivity

Realtors express optimism about the budget's impact on real estate sector

The recent Karnataka budget has given a significant boost to road infrastructure, thereby placing a strong emphasis on the realty sector. Developers believe that improved road connectivity is crucial for the development of peripheral areas. For example, the budget includes a boost for industrial connectivity from Devanahalli to Vijayapura, H Cross, Vemagal, and Malur by converting existing roads into four- and six-lane roads. The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited will undertake the development of this 123 km stretch at an estimated cost of Rs 1,826 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM).

Within the city, the government plans to prioritise the construction of white-topped roads. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced the restart of the white-topped project in 2023–24. Approximately 100 km of major roads will be developed as white-topped roads, amounting to a cost of Rs. 800 crore. This initiative aims to prevent frequent road repairs. Additionally, 83 km of high-density corridors will be developed within Bengaluru City at a cost of Rs 273 crore. The long-awaited Peripheral Ring Road, designed to ease traffic congestion, has received a boost as the state government has resolved all legal hurdles and pledged to expedite the project's implementation.

Moreover, the budget highlights the development of 2,000 km of state highways and 2,400 km of district roads, costing Rs 4,083 crore, to ensure good road connectivity for commuters and stimulate industrial and commercial activities.

Shantanu Mazumder, Executive Director, Bengaluru, at Knight Frank India expressed optimism about the budget's impact on the real estate sector.

He said, "The substantial grants allocated to crucial departments such as public works, food, and social welfare, totaling a budget of Rs 3.27 lakh crore. The significant grant of Rs 45,000 crore for Brand Bengaluru, along with investments in white topping, road development, and urban projects, sets the stage for enhanced infrastructure and urban development in the region. The budget's allocation of Rs 30,000 crore for the Namma Metro and an additional Rs 1,000 crore for the Bengaluru suburban rail project demonstrates the government's commitment to improving connectivity and addressing commuter challenges.

"These investments not only enhance transportation efficiency but also unlock new opportunities for real estate development. The Amruth Nagaroththana scheme, with an outlay of Rs 6,000 crore over the next three years, showcases the government's dedication to creating world-class infrastructure facilities in Bengaluru. This will further enhance the city's livability, attract investments, and stimulate the real estate sector while boosting property values and meeting the growing demand for quality housing," he added.

Furthermore, the government aims to utilise the latest technology in property registrations. A scientific and rational guidance value system for the Stamps and Registration Department will be developed using K-GIS as a base. This system will assign guidance values to properties located along roads and streets, enabling citizens to access accurate stamp duty information online. The government plans to initiate a pilot project in one district before implementing it statewide.

Commenting on this, BS Nesara, Chairman of Concorde, said, "An increase in guidance values would have a dual effect. We stress that a gradual increase in guidance values would rationalise them in certain micro markets and contribute to the overall price rise already felt by mid-segment and lower mid-segment homebuyers. Hence, we urge the government to consider the interests of both developers and homebuyers."

-Prakash VL

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Mysuru Road emerges as a preferred destination

When it comes to buying property, people have different preferences and budgets in mind. Property developers in and around Mysuru Road understand this diversity and offer a wide range of options to suit various budgets and needs. As a result, Mysuru Road has witnessed significant development and has become a sought-after location for real estate investments. The landscape is adorned with new landmarks, including high-rise buildings and bespoke properties that cater to the diverse demands of buyers. Furthermore, the ongoing construction of a 10-lane Mysuru Road and the availability of Metro connectivity have further enhanced the appeal of this area. Over the past few years, several mega infrastructure projects have been undertaken, contributing to the growth of localities in and around Mysuru Road. These developments have significantly boosted the prospects of the real estate market in the region, attracting both investors and homebuyers.

> **"The grant of Rs 45,000 crore for Brand Bengaluru, along with investments in white topping, road development, and urban projects, sets the stage for enhanced infra**

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Green sign for Pink Line

Namma Metro work taking place on Bannerghatta Road as part of the Pink Line corridor; The project has been divided into four packages

80% tunnelling complete; operations may commence only from 2025

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

If all goes well, the tunneling work in phase two is set to be completed next year, which is key to opening the Pink Line connecting Kalena Agrahara station on Bannerghatta Road with Nagawara station. Officials express hope that the work, including track installation, signaling, electrification, and safety certification, will be completed by the end of 2024. However, commercial operations on this route may only commence by March 2025.

The project, costing Rs 11,500 crore, involves one of the longest tunneling projects among the Metro systems in the country.

The 13.9 km tunnel from Dairy Circle to Nagawara passes mostly through the old and congested areas of Bengaluru. Currently, four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are at work, with 17,500 m of tunneling completed out of the total 21,245 m.

The Rudra TBM has tunnelled 718 m out of the 1,359-m tunnel and is yet to start excavating earth from Lakkasandra station to Langford station. The Vamika TBM has completed 31.5% of the tunneling between Langford town and Lakkasandra in the south direction.

The Bhadra TBM is tunneling between Venkateshpura and Kadugondanahalli and has completed 17% of the tunneling, while the Tunga TBM is tunneling southwards between these two stations and has completed 44.44% of the work.

The Pink Line between Kalena Agrahara and Nagawara spans 21.3 km. This line intersects with the Purple Line at MG Road station, making MG Road an intersection station as well. Out of the 18 stations, 12 will be underground (Dairy Circle, Lakkasandra, Langford Town, National Military School, MG Road, Shivajinagar, Cantonment Railway Station, Pottery Town, Tannery Road, Venkateshpura, Kadugondanahalli, and Nagawara), while the rest (Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIMB, JP Nagar fourth phase, Jayadeva, and Tavarekere) will be elevated.

Currently, four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are at work, with 17,500 metres of tunneling completed out of the total 21,245 metres

Officials state that nine TBMs were deployed for the Pink Line, and five of them have already completed the excavation. Avani and Lavi TBMs have completed the 2.7 km tunnel between National Military School and Shivajinagar. Varada has completed 594 m between the school and Langford Town.

Lavi has also completed tunneling from MG Road to Vellara Junction, and Urja has finished work between Cantonment and Pottery Town. Vindhya TBM has completed the section between Pottery Station and Shadi Mahal retrieval shaft. Approximately 650 personnel, including engineers, have been working diligently to ensure the timely completion of the tunnel.

The contractors responsible for the underground works are as follows: M/s AFCONS Ltd. has been awarded Package RT01, with an agreement signed on 12th December 2019, at a cost of Rs 1526.32 crore. Package RT02 has been entrusted to M/s L&T Ltd, with an agreement signed on March 8, 2019, amounting to Rs 1329.14 crore.

M/s L&T Ltd. is also responsible for Package RT03, with an agreement signed on March 8, 2019, costing Rs 1299.23 crore. Finally, Package RT04 has been assigned to M/s ITD Ltd, with an agreement signed on December 12, 2019, for a total of Rs 1771.25 crore.

Meanwhile, the construction of underground stations is also progressing well across the project. In Package RT01, the stations at Dairy Circle, Lakkasandra, and Langford have reached a completion rate of 48%. Similarly, in Package RT02, the stations at RMS, MG Road, and Shivaji Nagar have achieved a completion rate of 79%.

Package RT03 shows significant progress as well, with the stations at Cantonment and Pottery Town being 75% completed. Lastly, in Package RT04, the stations at Tannery Road, Venkateshpura, KG Halli, and Nagawara have reached a completion rate of 49%.

Aviation infrastructure gears up: New airports this year

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Two airports are likely to become operational this year, while the state may add one more airport. The Shivamogga airport, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year, is preparing to begin commercial flights in August, while the Vijayapura airport is expected to be operational by December. However, work on the Hassan airport is progressing at a slower pace and is anticipated to be completed by April 2024.

Shivamogga Airport prepares for August launch

During the progress review meeting of new airports in the state, Minister of Large Industries and Infrastructure Development, MB Patil, announced that the Shivamogga airport has received permission to commence operations from August 11. To ensure readiness, he instructed officials to complete all pending work including all amenities in place by the end of July. Patil stated, "Ambulance and other vehicles need to be deployed, and a coffee cafe needs to be opened. Additionally, technical and non-technical staff need to be appointed. All these requirements must be fulfilled by July 20."

The Directorate of Civil Aviation has permitted the Karnataka State Industries and Infrastructure

Development Corporation (KSIIDC) to handle the operation and maintenance of this airport. With this development, the Shivamogga Airport will become the first airport to be maintained by a state government institution. The Minister added that during the campaign for the state assembly elections, as many as 20 airbuses landed at the airport, generating an income of Rs. 12 lakhs. If everything goes as planned, the first flight will take off from Bengaluru and land at Shivamogga Airport on August 11.

Vijayapura Airport aims for year-end launch

Vijayapura Airport is expected to be operational by the end of this year. In the progress review, the Minister expressed dissatisfaction with the absence of a night landing facility and directed officials to incorporate this feature. He stated, "The original plan did not include a night landing facility. So far, around Rs. 350 crore has been spent, and an additional Rs 12 crore will be required to include the night landing facility." Vijayapura Airport experienced delays due to a modification in design, causing a setback in its completion timeline. The revised design was granted approval on October 28, 2022, resulting in a delay compared to the previous estimation of the airport's operational start in June 2023. Currently, the airport has achieved a physical work progress of 78.12%. The remaining construction is anticipated to be finished by October 2023, setting the airport to become operational from December 2023.

Hassan Airport next year

The Hassan airport has been built to accommodate ATR72 aircraft, while the Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, and Vijayapura airports have been designed to handle Airbus A320 aircraft. The estimated construction cost of the Hassan airport is estimated to be Rs. 193.65 crore, of which Rs. 109.99 crore has been released so far. The construction cost of the Shivamogga airport is Rs. 449.72 crore, while the Vijayapura airport cost Rs. 347.92 crore. The construction cost of the Shivamogga airport is Rs. 449.72 crore, while the Vijayapura airport cost Rs. 347.92 crore.

In Package 1, the construction of the runway, apron facility, internal road, and campus compounds is underway, with progress of 60.25% achieved so far. In Package Two, which includes the construction of the terminal building, watchtower, and CIR building, the progress is currently at a mere 3.39%. This project is expected to be completed by April 2024.

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Roads need work

Malleswaram

The roads near the 18th cross traffic signal, close to Sampige Road in Malleswaram, are in a deteriorating condition.

Parking problems

Seshadripuram

Residents in the vicinity of 4th cross NSI Street, behind Seshadripuram college, have been blocking public parking spaces.

Public nuisance

Gubbalala

A wine store located on 80 feet road in Gubbalala has become a gathering place for over 100 people daily to drink and litter.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

GREEN BEAUTY

A damselfly sitting on a plant

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Govindasamy Chinnu**

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Bite-to-bite anxiety

Food cart owners express their concern over hike in food prices; hotels to increase rates by 10-15 per cent

| Abhijeet Kabad
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the prices of most commodities increasing rapidly over the last few weeks, food prices at restaurants are set to get more expensive. The Hotel Owners' Association has decided to hike the price by 10–15%. The decision to finalise this would take place in a meeting on July 25. The move is bound to affect the food cart owners as well.

Food cart owner Raju, hailing from Bihar, said that they would also have to increase their rates if the hotels followed the move. "The hotel people might question why we are selling for a lower rate as compared to them.

Since the restaurants are increasing their rates, we would have to follow suit. The rates are going up for tomatoes, and it will be affordable for only the rich people."

Talking about the repercussions of the same, he said, "If hotels increase the rate, people will visit them anyway. But for the roadside vendors, when we increase the rates, nobody will buy from us.

This is my only means of a living, and having to take care of two children, increasing the rates might affect the business."

The decision to finalise the hike in food prices at hotels will take place in a meeting on July 25

Another food cart owner, Rajesh, who sells chaats, said, "Only if other carts increase their price, I can increase it or there would be no profits. We have been facing losses for the last few months. The tomatoes that I buy for my chaats are just kept as a showpiece. With these prices, I can barely include it in any of the dishes."

Basudev Bag from Kolkata started a new business as a momos seller, but with the rising prices, he has decreased his budget. Before, he would buy 4-5 kg of various vegetables, but currently he has resorted to 1-2 kg. "Local people eat and do not give money sometimes. I have a new shop, and buying tomatoes is very difficult. I used to work in a hospital for seven years but wasn't paid my salary on time. Now that I've started the momos food cart, the rise in prices has started affecting my profits." With a child in the 7th grade, he added that he finds it hard to meet the daily needs.

The owner of New Durbar Restaurant in Sanjaynagar said that they would not increase the rates as it would affect the customers. "The prices of vegetables and commodities are bound to increase during the rainy season. This does not mean that we will hike the rates. For the losses gained, we will look to cover them up after the monsoon season."

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru is one of the most popular research institutions in Karnataka. It focuses on conducting biological research and operates as a division of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). It is located in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Kodigehalli, and is known to have a beautiful green campus. The centre's primary objective is to engage in fundamental and interdisciplinary research in the cutting-edge fields of biology. It offers courses like PhD and MSc in Wildlife Biology and Conservation, among others.

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

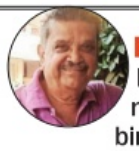
What are the measures that can be taken to ensure the cleanliness of the bus stops in the city?

Sidak Puri, BM Reader
Ensuring cleanliness at bus stops in Bengaluru is a collective responsibility that requires the participation of both authorities and citizens. BBMP should implement a robust waste management system with bins at each bus stop.

Robert Rahi, BM Reader
Awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate citizens about the importance of cleanliness and responsible waste disposal. Posters, and digital media can be used to promote a sense of ownership among the residents.

Aryan Singh, BM Reader
Active community participation is vital. Local residents and commuters should form cleanliness committees for each bus stop, organise periodic cleanup drives, and maintain awareness about the importance of cleanliness.

Balaji, BM Reader
It is important to implement several measures like regular cleaning of the bus stops, providing an adequate number of trash bins for proper waste disposal, educating the public, and enforcing penalties for littering.



Hemath D Pai, BM Reader
It is crucial to have an adequate number of dust bins in place. These bins should be regularly emptied to prevent overflowing. Additionally, the cleaning staff should sweep the bus stands at regular intervals.

Kavitha Srinivas, BM Reader
Placing 'Do Not Litter' placards at bus stops can help create awareness and discourage littering. It is crucial for the BBMP workers to clear the garbage from the bus stops on a daily basis.

SPEAK TO US

Tell us how you are planning to maintain a healthy diet during monsoon.
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ALL CHEER AS INDIA OFF TO EXPLORE MOON'S SOUTH POLE

Chandrayaan-3 is blazing its way toward the far side of the moon in a follow-up mission

#SRIHARIKOTA

An Indian spacecraft blazed its way toward the far side of the moon Friday in a follow-up mission to its failed effort nearly four years ago to land a rover on the lunar surface, the country's space agency said.

Chandrayaan-3, the word for "moon craft" in Sanskrit, took off from a launchpad in Sriharikota in southern India with an orbiter, a lander and a rover, in a demonstration of India's emerging space technology. The spacecraft embarked on a journey that is expected to last slightly over a month before landing on the moon's surface later in August.

Applause and cheers swept through mission control at Satish Dhawan Space Center, where the Indian Space Research Organization's engineers and scientists celebrated as they monitored the launch of the spacecraft. Thousands of Indians cheered outside the mission control center and waved the national flag as they watched the spacecraft rise into the sky.

"Congratulations India. Chandrayaan-3 has started its journey towards the moon," ISRO Director Sreedhara Panicker Somanath said shortly after the launch.

A successful landing would make India the fourth country — after the United States, the former Soviet Union, and China — to achieve the feat.

The six-wheeled lander and rover module of Chandrayaan-3 is configured with payloads that would provide data to the scientific community on the properties of lunar soil and rocks, including chemical and elemental compositions, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, junior minister for Science and Technology.

India's previous attempt to land a robotic spacecraft near the moon's little-explored south pole ended in failure in 2019. It entered the lunar orbit but lost touch with its lander that crashed while making its final descent to deploy a rover to search for signs of water. According to a failure analysis report submitted to the ISRO, the crash was caused by a software glitch.

The $140-million mission in 2019 was intended to study permanently shadowed moon craters that are thought to contain water deposits and were confirmed by India's Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008.

Somanath said the main objective of the mission this time was a safe and soft landing on the moon. He said the Indian space agency has perfected the art of reaching up to the moon, "but it is the landing that the agency is working on."

Numerous countries and private companies are in a race to successfully land a spacecraft on the lunar surface. In April, a Japanese company's spacecraft apparently crashed while attempting to land on the moon. An Israeli nonprofit tried to achieve a similar feat in 2019, but its spacecraft was destroyed on impact.

With nuclear-armed India emerging as the world's fifth-largest economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist government is eager to show off the country's prowess in security and technology.

"Chandrayaan-3 scripts a new chapter in India's space odyssey. It soars high, elevating the dreams and ambitions of every Indian," Modi said in a tweet after the launch.

India is using research from space and elsewhere to solve problems at home. Its space program has already helped develop satellite, communication and remote-sensing technologies and has been used to gauge underground water levels and predict weather in the country, which is prone to cycles of drought and flood.

"This is a very critical mission," said Pallava Bagla, a science writer and co-author of books on India's space exploration, adding that India will require soft landing technology if it wants to attempt more missions to the moon.

India is also looking forward to its first mission to the International Space Station next year, in collaboration with the United States as part of agreements between Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden at the White House last month.

This one-off visit by an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station will not hamper India's own program, which aims to launch an Indian astronaut from Indian soil on an Indian rocket in late 2024, Bagla said.

As part of its own space program, active since the 1960s, India has launched satellites for itself and other countries, and successfully put one in orbit around Mars in 2014.

Singh said that based on the current trajectory of growth, India's space sector could be a trillion-dollar economy in the coming years.

As of April, India has launched 424 satellites for 34 countries, including Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The ISRO has earned approximately 1.1 billion rupees ($13.4 million) in the past five years from the launch of foreign satellites, the minister told India's Parliament in December.

-AP

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh and ISRO chairman S Somanath during the launch of Chandrayaan-3 at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre; crowds gathered to witness event

Chandrayaan3 is a very important step...Landing this time is very important. Unless you land, you cannot take samples, you cannot land human beings, and you cannot create moon bases. So, landing is one important step for further exploration

—ISRO chief S Somanath

Congratulations to ISRO on the Chandrayaan-3 launch, wishing you safe travels to the Moon. We look forward to the scientific results to come from the mission, including NASA's laser retroreflector array. India is demonstrating leadership on #ArtemisAccords!

—Bill Nelson, NASA administrator on Twitter

India successfully launches Chandrayaan-3 marking another significant milestone in space exploration. Heartiest congratulations to the @ISRO team and everyone who worked relentlessly to accomplish the feat! It demonstrates the nation's unwavering commitment to advancement in space science and technology. My best wishes for the success of the lunar mission

—President of India Droupadi Murmu

State of school building, a picture of education

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The passerby saw the girl sitting outside while on his way to the office, and was shocked. He was also aghast to see the dilapidated condition of the school building.

Calling this quite concerning, Voice of Parents Organisation Joint Secretary Sijo Sebastian said that a child has been left alone to sit on the ground for 1 hour daily. "This is the area where all types of people are passing by. The child could easily get the attention of people who pass by this area. This includes passengers and pedestrians and there is clearly a case of vulnerability. The parents should be instructed to minimise such untended situations for a child and at the same time, the school staff also should take the responsibility of coming early, at least one person can come on a rotation basis. Government should look into such matters to make sure proper care is given to the children and they are protected," said Sijo Sebastian.

When this correspondent visited the Government Tamil Higher Primary School on Thursday, there were five students and two teachers. The girl student was not in a position to explain why she comes to school early every day.

"The student's parents have been working as domestic workers. They drop their daughter here while going to work every day. I told her not to come to school before the school gate is opened," said a teacher.

The girl student sitting in front of the school gate; Condition of Government Tamil Higher Primary School building

The school building is in a pathetic condition and there is hardly any space for the students and teachers to have a safe shelter for them whenever it rains. One can see holes in the tiled roof and damp walls of the school building.

Expressing concern over the lack of access to the girl student, Child Rights Trust Director Nagasima G Rao said that every school must have a child protection policy. "The teachers have to know why the girl student is coming to school much before the gates of the school are opened. If need arises, the teachers can also counsel her parents," said Nagasimha G Rao.

Meanwhile, Cluster Resource Person Kantharaj said that he was aware of the condition of the school building and higher authorities are taking measures to repair the school building which is a heritage building.

> **"There were six students last academic year. This year, three students got admission and the parents of two students are yet to submit the required documents**
>
> — Cluster Resource Person Kantharaj

"There were six students last academic year. This year, three students got admission and the parents of two students are yet to submit the required documents. We visited the school today. We will create awareness to the parents of the girl student," said Kantharaj.

When informed, Block Education Officer Shashikala said that she would look into the matter.

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I Moiz M Lightwala R/o 207, Calvin Royal Residency Bohra Layout Gottigere Bangalore 560083 have changed my name to Moiz Mansoor Lightwala

I, Dhamarla Srinivasa Jagannath Guptha, residing at No. 23/1, Shop Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, have changed my minor Son's name from PRAJAN J GUPTHA to PRAJAN JAGANNATH GUPTHA, vide affidavit dated 12.07.2023, sworn before notary K.S Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

I Kumudha Ramaswamy W/o Sundaram R/o No 4, Rkm Layout, Phase-3, Opp Diamond College, Maragondanahalli, K R Puram, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to Kumudha Noolahalli Ramaswamy for all purposes

I V Divyavani R/a A311, Lotus Palace Apts Kasavannahalli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore-560035, have changed my name to Divyavani V Kumar, vide affidavit dt 13.07.2023, before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I Kumari Ashwini Ashish D/O, Ashish Kumar R/o HSR Layout, Bengaluru have changed my name to Ashwini Ashish for all future purposes.

I, Juhi Sadath, W/o Imran Sadath R/at 301,1st Floor,10th Main,14th Cross, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 560038 Have changed my name to Juhi Mirza Affidavit Dt.14/07/2023 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Lokesha TG R/o Thagachekuppe Bachenahatti Post , Magadi Ramanagar-562120 Karnataka have changed my name to Lokesh TG.

I, Mahiboob S/o Bashasab R/o 144, Near Mahmadiya Masjid Ganganagar Sindhnur Raichur -584128 have changed my name to Maheboob.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I, Sandeep N. S/o Late. Roopa @ Roopasri, W/o Naga raja .S, R/at 14/5, 59 th A cross, 4th N block, Dr.Rajkumar road, Rajaji Nagar, B.lore-10 have lost my original copy sale deed BBMP Property PID # 23-1-14/5, If anybody found please call 9741111514 or hand over to the nearest police station.

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HEALTH TIP: Engage in activities that stimulate your brain, such as reading, puzzles, learning new skills, or participating in mentally challenging games

Limit alcohol consumption to moderate levels as excessive alcohol intake can have adverse health effects, especially in older adults

BangaloreMirror | 13
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WHAT DO YOU MEME?

21% of GenZ daters say sending memes builds great rapport

People exploring the world of love and romance have come up with new and more effective ways to connect with their dates. From sending memes to sharing their favourite playlist, connecting with matches has been taken to a whole new level. A dating app recently conducted a survey studying the approaches in which GenZ and Millennial daters are communicating their feelings.

The founder and CEO commented, "More than 35+ million chats are exchanged per month on our app, and among them, the new matches often send each other cute videos that might express the same emotions as they have for each other, memes, and we even see them discussing movies and current trends on the social media."

The new love languages

21 per cent of GenZ daters mentioned during the survey that sending memes and funny videos builds great rapport between new matches. It is no longer "Hey, how are you?" If your person of interest continues to send you memes, it only means that they are interested, and the content they send has more meaning to it than just for laughs. It can be a direct indication that they are interested. They also mentioned that this is strictly about two people who have previously shown romantic interest in each other and not just any random person.

> From sending memes to sharing their favourite playlist, connecting with matches has been taken to a whole new level

Get to know each other better

During the survey, 37 per cent of daters above 30 disclosed that the getting-to-know-each-other phase is much different now than it was some five years back. For instance, no one asks about your favourite color anymore. It is more about how well you have healed from your previous heartbreaks, how you carry yourself in the face of troubles, and more profound questions that are much more useful to know than someone's favourite color.

Pulling the heartstrings with music

If two people have similar tastes in music, it's reason enough to connect, says 19 per cent of daters from tier 1 and 2 cities. There's a lot to talk about when you have similar likings, making it easier for the conversations to flow between matches. 11 per cent of these daters disclosed that sharing passwords for OTT platforms is also a way to connect. They said that if you want to impress someone you have been speaking to for a while, offer them your password to an OTT platform you have a subscription to and see how fast you become friends.

Movie, series, and more

Speaking about OTT platforms, loving the same series as someone, or even better, hating the same series, can be a reason for connecting; at least 16 per cent of male daters between the age of 22 to 28 say so. Sharing critical notes about a series, how well-made it is, or how it did not live up to the hype are great topics for conversation. 14 percent of female daters in the same age group mentioned, "Did you watch so and so series?" is the most used ice-breaker at the moment.

Comedy over drama

Forget movies, comedy shows are the place new couples prefer more these days, said more than 24 per cent of daters between 25-30 from tier 1 cities. Laughter is good for your health; why shouldn't that apply to your relationship; asked these seasoned daters. They explained that it allows you a good laugh, and you can also gauge your match's sense of humour and even see if your vibes match all at the same time.

—IANSlife

MIRRORLIGHTS

Why humans look away from things they fear

Averting our eyes from things that scare us may be due to a specific cluster of neurons in a visual region of the brain, according to new research.

Researchers at the University of Tokyo found that in fruit fly brains, these neurons release a chemical called tachykinin which appears to control the fly's movement to avoid facing a potential threat.

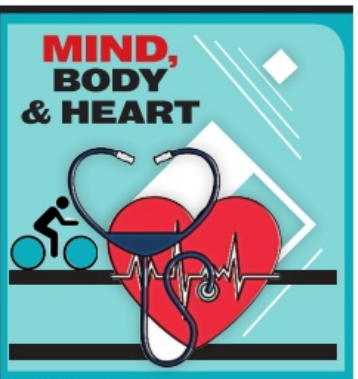
"Since fear affects vision across animal species, including humans, the mechanism we found may be active in humans as well," Tsuji added. The team used puffs of air to simulate a physical threat and found that the flies' walking speed increased after being puffed at.

Next the researchers placed a small black object, roughly the size of a spider, 60 degrees to the right or left of the fly. On its own the object didn't cause a change in behaviour, but when placed following puffs of air, the flies avoided looking at the object and moved so that it was behind them.

To understand the molecular mechanism underlying this aversion behaviour, the team then used mutated flies in which they altered the activity of certain neurons.

While the mutated flies kept their visual and motor functions, and would still avoid the air puffs, they did not respond in the same fearful manner to visually avoid the object. "This suggested that the cluster of neurons which releases the chemical tachykinin was necessary for activating visual aversion," said Tsuji.

"Neurons typically function by just increasing their activity levels, and reports of oscillating activity are particularly rare in fruit flies because up until recently the technology to detect this at such a small and fast scale didn't exist." — IANS



All you need to know about...

Aspartame

What WHO said

The artificial sweetener aspartame, which is consumed by millions every day as a sugar substitute in products such as diet soft drinks, has long been the topic of fierce debate over its impact on health. On Friday, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified aspartame as "possibly carcinogenic to humans," citing "limited evidence" suggesting a link to cancer. But the WHO emphasised that it will not change its maximum level of acceptable daily intake of aspartame and that more research is needed.

What is aspartame?

Aspartame is a combination of two amino acids, phenylalanine and aspartic. It was discovered by chance in 1965 by a chemist working for the Searle pharmaceutical company who was trying to find a treatment for ulcers. Aspartame has a similar level of energy to sugar -- one gram has around four calories -- but it is around 200 times sweeter. This means that a far lower amount can be used to replace sugar and sweeten food, while keeping the calorie level down.

What products have aspartame

Thousands of products across the world use aspartame -- many marketed as diet, light, or zero-calorie. Aspartame is added to soft drinks, chewing gum, sweets, jelly, yoghurts, dairy products, cough drops, toothpaste and store-bought desserts. It is even added to over 600 drugs to help the medicine go down.

Acceptable intake

The WHO and other international health bodies have set the maximum acceptable daily intake for aspartame at 40 milligrams per kilogram of body weight a day. —AFP

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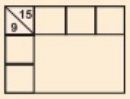
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

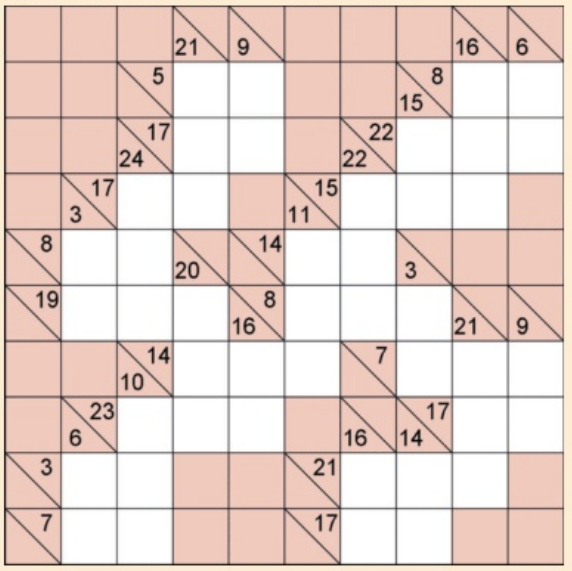
$25 + 5 \times 5^{-1} - 5^{0!} = ?$

Kakuro

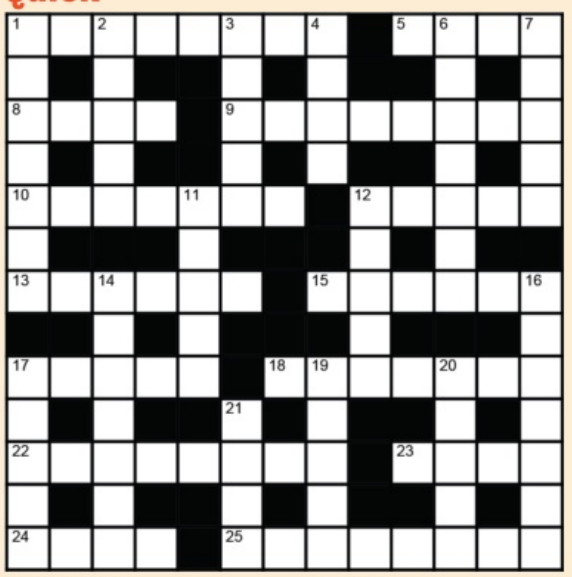
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Plan of action (8)
5 Luxurious (4)
8 Egg shaped (4)
9 On one's ___ ___ : just short of exhaustion? (4,4)
10 Head of a college (7)
12 Killed or slaughtered (5)
13 Finally (2,4)
15 Olympic gold medallist ___ Chopra (6)
17 Date-bearing trees (5)
18 Locks of human hair (7)
22 Sports shoes (8)
23 Invoice (4)
24 Sore, as muscles (4)
25 Disagreed with and hence argued (8)

DOWN

1 Podded vegetable (4,3)
2 Muse of poetry (5)
3 Breathing sounds (5)
4 Approximately (2,2)
6 Alfresco (4-3)
7 A type of Chinese tea ? (5)
11 Expels or evicts (5)
12 Military blockade (5)
14 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
16 Pushed or elbowed (7)
17 Bihar's capital (5)
19 Demolishes or ruins, in a way (5)
20 Garment (5)
21 Obscene (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS U

WMA OQC IY Q GQCE LCNLSYG QN JYXX QN Q GQCE MAKNLSYG.

Linemaro

May be one day I'll be able to to tear away a part of me and let you go

Mindchow

Good acts are like good poems. One may easily get their drift, but they are not rationally understood

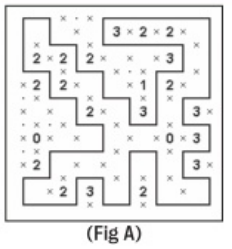
Joke of the day

I feel like I am diagonally parked in a parallel universe

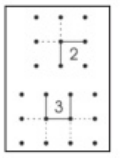
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

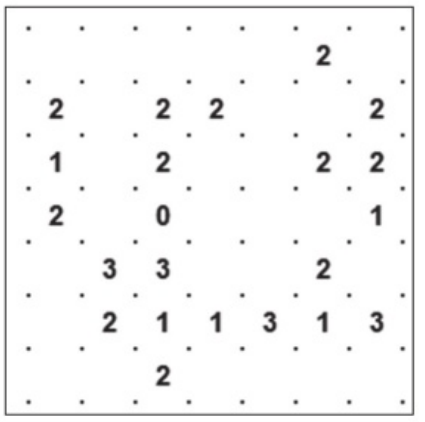


(Fig B) Not Allowed

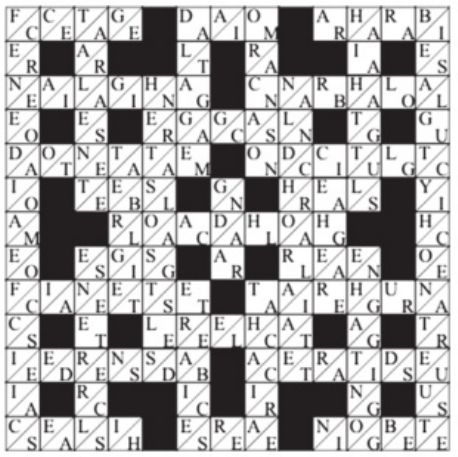
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6	D			
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Barb I; 6 Solid; 7 Largo; 8 So bee; 9 Sores

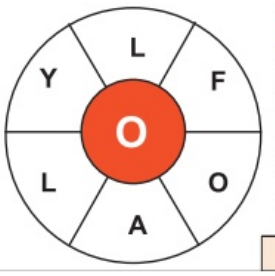
DOWN

1 Or rig; 2 Boo ad; 3 Brose; 4 Beals; 5 Less I

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the blanks to find two words that are antonyms.

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7	8					3	9	
					7			
	1	6	2				8	4
3				8	9			
1								9
			6	1				2
9	7				6	4	5	
			7					
	4	8					7	6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17 (2 2 8 9)

Medium = 7 (5 5 6 9)

Hard = 59 (4 5 7 4)

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

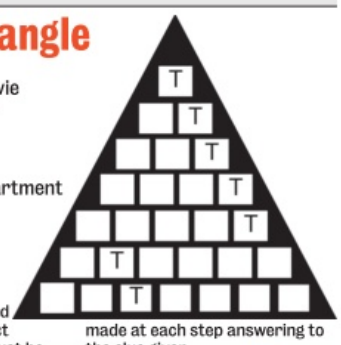
Differences: 1. Man is thinner. 2. Fingers are moved. 3. Bag is larger. 4. Jacket zipper is missing. 5. Arm of chair is longer. 6. Collar is smaller.

Riddler

Even though the Tasmanian Tiger is classified as a carnivore, why doesn't it eat meat?

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Stephen King movie
3 In good condition
4 Closed hand
5 In front
6 Dissension
7 Engineering Department workers



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

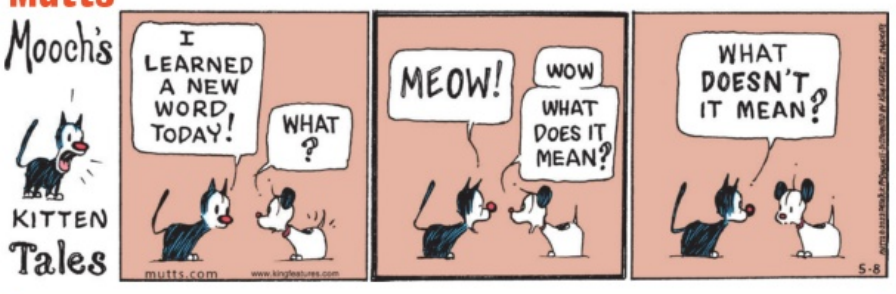
Hart of the city

I TOLD JOHN HE NEEDS TO LET HIS CRUSH PLAY OUT. IF IT'S MEANT TO BE, IT'LL HAPPEN ON ITS OWN!
IS THAT HOW YOU'RE WOOING CHARLOTTE?
TH-THIS IS WHY I DON'T TALK TO YOU ABOUT GIRLS, HEART. Y-YOU MAKE THESE WILD ACCUSATIONS!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 AUGUSTUS ROMEIL
@OOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

HOW DO YOU FEEL, MR. CRANKSHAFT, ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE BACKYARD GRILL YOU INADVERTENTLY LAUNCHED INTO SPACE...
HAS KNOCKED THE ASTEROID 'DIMORPHOS' ONTO A DIRECT COLLISION COURSE WITH THE EARTH?
FRANKLY, I'M TIRED OF BEING GRILLED ABOUT THIS!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
5-4

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy with kids and may plan to invest in their future. You are likely to start an innovative partnership and receive investments that will boost your business in the near future. Additionally, you may consider higher studies to further your career.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will bring confidence. Your focus on your goals is clear, and you may achieve success. Your creativity may improve, and you will take an interest in art, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. By the end of the day, you may feel satisfied, and your opponents may be under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may help needy people around you, which will enhance your reputation. New ideas may come to mind, and you are likely to assist others. Implementing innovation in your work may enhance your business. Love birds may plan an outing or an adventure tour.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues and spend money on artifacts or household items. It is advised to control spending on unnecessary items to avoid attracting negative energy. Additionally, be mindful of your speech and avoid being harsh with those around you.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your spiritual power may bring happiness. Your thinking may be positive, and you may be inclined towards spiritualism. Planning a visit to a spiritual; place or showing interest in occult science is likely. You may observe flawlessness in your nature, but it is advised to discuss your views with understanding individuals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel nervous and lack patience. Listen to your intuition before making decisions, especially in matters related to spirituality or research. Your focus and knowledge in a subject may deepen.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the placement of the moon is favourable, bringing positive momentum to your professional and domestic life. Expect gains from your investments, and you may receive reciprocation for your help from friends and relatives. Hard work may lead to success.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may perform well, and your children's health improves. Investing in their future may be a good idea. Loyalty towards your job will be strong, and job seekers may find good opportunities through referrals. Identifying hidden enemies and countering them with blessings is possible.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your mother's health may be good, and you may enjoy work with rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may increase. Be cautious not to overwork your mind, as it may tire you and prevent you from attending a family event.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be satisfied with your work and plan a short business trip. Visiting a spiritual place can help maintain inner peace. Seek guidance from your mentors to gain clarity about your goals.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull, so it's important to keep a cool mind and think twice before acting. Be cautious with your money, as there is a risk of losing it while traveling. Avoid going on adventure tours, and students should focus on in-depth studies for success.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, domestic harmony will bring you happiness. Meeting influential people may benefit you professionally. You may perform well in your job and expect rewards, such as promotions. Disputes regarding inherited property may also be resolved.

KIDZONE

Anubhuti B C Mishra, 10 Years, Bishop Cotton Girls School

K Janan Aiyappa, 8 Years, Delhi Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

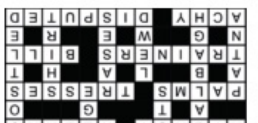
SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
25 + 5 x ½ – 5¹
25 + 5/5 – 5
25 + 1 – 5
26 – 5
= 21

BULL'S EYE
alloy, aloof, ALOOFLY, foal, folly, fool, loaf, loyal

STRIKE OUT

QUICK



TIMOROUS, FEARLESS

MENSA PUZZLE

SUDOKU

2	4	8	9	3	5	1	7	6
6	5	1	7	4	8	9	2	3
9	7	3	1	2	6	4	5	8
8	9	7	6	1	4	5	3	2
1	6	5	3	7	2	8	4	9
3	2	4	5	8	9	6	1	7
5	1	6	2	9	3	7	8	4
4	3	9	8	5	7	2	6	1
7	8	2	4	6	1	3	9	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, It, Fit, Fist, First, Strife, Filters.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 – 2 + 9 + 2 = 17
5 – 9 + 6 + 5 = 7
Medium
5 + 4 x 7 – 4 = 59
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

R	A	B	B	I
I	D	O	L	S
G	O	R	A	L
O	B	E	S	E
R	O	S	E	S

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Love is in the air

Director Mahesh Babu, who is known for his romantic films, has come out with one more love story.

The movie begins with a few goons entering a playground where some youth are playing cricket. The leader of the goons wants to beat Vijay (Sughosh Gowda) who had earlier beaten the leader's follower Kurup Kumar. The leader coaxes Vijay's friend Sunder (Vijay Chendur) to introduce Vijay to him. Then a fight breaks out and the leader attacks Vijay, who retaliates with a counter-attack. Here the director introduces a flashback narrating how Vijay fell in love with Haasini (Hrithika Srinivas) and how both decide to marry but Vijay has a misunderstanding about Haasini and he announces a break up with her.

Meanwhile, Haasini's father (Avinash) buys a farm house for her and arranges her marriage with an affluent person. What happens to Vijay and Haasini is what Aparoopa is all about.

APAROOPA

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Mahesh Babu
- **ACTORS** Sughosh Gowda, Hrithika Srinivas, Avinash, Aruna Balraj, Vijay Chendoor, Kuri Pratap, Kaddipudi
- **Duration** 120 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The movie conveys a message especially to those who break up at the drop of a hat. The films songs are melodious, especially Hey Baby Barbie Doll sung by late Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar, which is very catchy. Prajwal Pai has scored its lilting music.

The lead pair – Sughosh Gowda and Hrithika Srinivas – have outdone each other in dancing skills. Sughosh needs to hone up his acting and Hrithika can very well be an asset to Sandalwood.

Credit must go to the choreographer too. Cinematographer Suryakanth has done an excellent job in capturing beautiful locations of Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru and Kashmir.

Avinash, Aruna Balaraj, Kaddipudi Chandru, Vijay Chendoor have provided good support.

The only drawback of the movie is the character played by Kuri Pratap. The character is supposed to give comic relief, but it fails miserably. The dialogues on – helmet – look incongruous. Aparoopa would have been a unique love story movie had the director made the scene of the heroine walking out of her marriage hall more believable.

But, it is a pleasant watch for all audiences. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Shy guy

Actor Vijay Varma is clearly at the best stage in life when it comes to his career. With back-to-back performances in projects like 'Darlings', 'Dahaad' and 'Lust Stories 2' in recent times, he's clearly carved a niche for himself. Having said that, his personal life has also been in the news lately as he's in a relationship with Tamannaah Bhatia.

While Vijay and Tamannaah look gorgeous together, they also serve major 'couple goals' because of the kind of respect they have for each other.

During an exclusive conversation, we asked Vijay why he doesn't like to talk about his relationship. Ask him if it's because he wants people to talk about his work and he admits, "I've never said anything about my personal life, all through my entire cinematic career so far. I would like to maintain that. Having said that, there's a time and place for everything in life and that time I will speak. But as of now, I'm too shy and hence I wouldn't like to dwell too much into it." The actor also firmly believes that his relationship is a very private, precious aspect of his life and that's how he would like to keep it. On the work front, Vijay will be seen next in 'Kaalkoot' where he plays a police officer. The web-series shall see him alongside Shweta Tripathi Sharma who goes through an acid attack. **—ETimes**

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